

The First United Methodist In the First Place (USPS692-190) is published weekly except one week in July and one week in December by the First United Methodist Church, 723 Center Street, Little Rock, Arkansas 72201-4317. Editor, Michael Mattox; Managing editor, Deni Clark; Periodicals postage paid at Little Rock, Arkansas. www.fumclr.org
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In The First Place

Church Calendar

SUNDAY, January 31, 2010

- 8:15 a.m. First Cup Café
- 8:30 a.m. First Light in the Chapel
- 8:55 a.m. First Word, Contemporary (Gym)
- 8:55 a.m. Glory Singers (Choir Room)
- 8:55 a.m. Quarter Notes (Music Room)
- 9:00 a.m. Telephone Sunday School Class
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School
- 10:30 a.m. Quiet Meditation (Chapel)
- 11:00 a.m. First Tradition in the Sanctuary
- 12:00 p.m. Children's Council (Agape-Credo)
- 1:00 p.m. District Youth Council (Youth Lounge)
- 3:00 p.m. Sr. High Girls' Basketball Practice (Gym)
- 3:30 p.m. Youth Band Practice (Youth Lounge)
- 4:30 p.m. VOICES (Choir Room)
- 5:30 p.m. First Youth (Youth Lounge)

MONDAY, February 1, 2010

- 8:30 a.m. L.I.F.T.
- 10:15 p.m. Thompson-Cotton (Agape-Credo)
- 6:00 p.m. Girls' Club Basketball Practice (Gym)

TUESDAY, February 2, 2010

- 7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study (Youth Lounge)
- 8:30 a.m. L.I.F.T.
- 9:00 a.m. Staff Meeting (Friendship Classroom)
- 4:15 p.m. 723 Band Rehearsal (Gym)
- 5:45 p.m. Jr. High Boys' Basketball (Gym)
- 6:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry (Agape-Credo)
- 6:30 p.m. Girl Scouts
- 7:15 p.m. Sr. High Boys' Basketball (Gym)

WEDNESDAY, February 3, 2010

- 8:30 a.m. L.I.F.T.
- 9:00 a.m. CDC Chapel (Chapel)
- 11:30 a.m. Weight Watchers (Room 259)
- 5:30 p.m. Taize Service (Chapel)
- 6:00 p.m. Boys' Club Basketball Practice (Gym)
- 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice (Choir Room)

THURSDAY, February 4, 2010

- 8:30 a.m. L.I.F.T.
- 10:30 a.m. Companions in Christ (Study)
- 12:00 p.m. Pastor's Bible Study (Friendship Class)
- 6:30 p.m. First Word Band Practice (Gym)
- 7:00 p.m. The Ensemble (Schallhorn)

In Memory of

Charlie Herrell

By: Bill and Jenny Adair
 Dean and Lory Greer
 Jug and Jeanne Wallace
 Verizon Arena
 Laine Harber
 Chuck and Jennie Cole
 Mabel and Jim Webb and Richard and Elizabeth Livingston
 La Moderne Club General Federation of Women's Clubs

Carolyn Mabry

By: Harry and Norma Galusha
 Residents Association of Pleasant Hills Senior Living Center

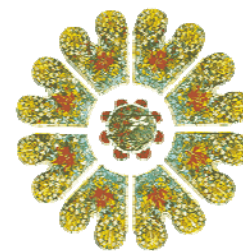
Rev. Edward Harris

By: Mabel Harris-Webb and Richard and Elizabeth Livingston (Human Relations Day)

Pastor on Call - January 31-February 6

If you need a pastor after regular office hours,
 Rev. Michael Mattox is on call.
 You may reach him on his cell phone at 231-5824.

First United Methodist Church



Downtown for Good

Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany January 31, 2010

First Light in the Chapel - 8:30
 First Word in the Gym - 8:55
 (Contemporary Service)
 First Tradition in the Sanctuary - 11:00

Missionary Speaker
Rev. Meri Whitaker
Cookson Hills United Methodist Mission

Weekly Bible Readings

Jeremiah 1:4-10
 Psalm 71:1-6
 I Corinthians 13:1-13
 Luke 4:21-30

First United Methodist Church
 723 Center Street
 Little Rock, Arkansas 72201
 (501) 372-2256
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United Methodist Women's Sunday January 31, 2010 Preacher: Rev. Meri Whitaker



United Methodist Women is not only a knitting circle, although we work systemically for the rights of textile workers around the world; it is not a coffee clutch, although we promote awareness and usage of fairly traded products; and it is not a self-help touchy feely support group, although we have changed millions upon millions of lives in the past 140 years.

United Methodist women is an 800,000 member-strong organization of women who seek to know God and make life better for women, children, youth, and marginalized neighbors in the ever expanding global village of today's world. We create a supportive community that provides opportunities for change.

United Methodist Women's mission giving is at work in 103 mission institutions here in the United States and in nearly 300 programs and institutions in more than 58 countries around the world. We support mission service opportunities, mission education programs, and nurture and develop programs for our membership.

As we celebrate United Methodist Women's Sunday we invite all women at First United Methodist Church to be a part of UMW and its mission to be of service to others in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Because we believe, we act.

United Methodist Women is Love in Action!

Youth Ministry - Make an Impact

I recently returned from the SMU Perkins School of Youth Ministry in Dallas, Texas, where I found myself amongst 300 youth ministers from across the nation. I was enrolled in a week long course, aimed at instructing youth workers to build a sustainable youth ministry, built on a strong foundation of vision and--hold your breath--volunteers. I met so many different youth workers from diverse backgrounds and circumstances, each united with the common purpose of equipping our youth for a faithful, fulfilling life with Christ. Conferences like this are extremely powerful--so many different points of view on a single idea, all converging at one place. Each of us left with an improved perspective and returned home inspired with a renewed sense of purpose. I was motivated by the sense of unity at the conference and was reminded of the beauty of Methodism. We are the United Methodist Church. We are interconnected! What happens to one of us affects each of us. We are one body in Christ, and we all have gifts and abilities that can be used in specific ways to help move our world and church closer to what our faith envisions.

During this upcoming year, it is our intention to dig deeper in our youth ministry--to find out how our little puzzle piece fits into the church and the greater community. We are taking steps to move us in that direction. Every month our group does a service project that benefits our city or church. During the summer, we will participate in the Ozark Mission Project, which benefits the greater state of Arkansas, and this July we will pack our bags for an international mission trip to Reynosa, Mexico to build a school.

Continued on page 2.

What's Happening at First Church

Taizé Service of Prayer and Worship



Make plans to attend the Taizé Service at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, February 3, 2010 in the Chapel.

Youth Ministry - Make an Impact continued.

While there are so many moments of progression, there are also moments where I feel as if our ministry is like that pet hand from the Addam's family TV show. We have moments of isolation where it seems as if we are separated from the body of the church--but we are very much alive and moving forward all the same! And, in the spirit of Paul's letter to the Corinthians, our youth ministry Addam's family hand is no less a hand when it is on its own. I see it as our church missing a hand! And the only way to unite our hand to the body is with your help. Each one of us has a unique set of talents and gifts that can help us unite our youth group to the church--especially members of the church who are not parents of a member of the youth group. We need adults to be small group leaders, to bring meals for our Sunday night programs, to chaperone on retreats, and, most importantly, just be present for support for the youth. Many say the youth are the future of the church; but, it is important to remember that they are the church.

I know we can move this ministry forward, and I invite each and every one of you to lead with me. We really can make an extraordinary impact in the lives of our youth--and the world--if each of us just gives a little of our time to lend a helping hand. Come and lead with me...heck, you might even like it...a lot!

Peace,
Justin Warren, Director of Youth Ministries
warren@fumclr.org

Operating Budget Summary for the Period Ended December 31, 2009				
	2009 Actual Year-to-Date	2009 Budget Year-to-Date	2008 Actual Year-to-Date	2008 Budget Year-to-Date
Operating Income				
Contribution Income	\$1,310,825	\$1,393,108	\$1,310,178	\$1,399,108
Other Operating Income	161,411	189,566	180,436	186,566
Total Operating Income	1,472,236	1,582,674	1,490,614	1,585,674
Operating Expenses				
Apportionments & Benevolences	217,529	227,555	238,786	242,596
Church Programs & Staffing	1,054,481	1,144,319	1,047,449	1,139,078
Property Maintenance & Utilities	198,554	210,800	193,839	204,000
Total Operating Expenses	1,470,564	1,582,674	1,480,074	1,585,674
Net Income from Operations	\$ 1,672	\$ 0	\$ 10,540	\$ 0

"Serving to Serve"

Valentine's Day, February 14, Noon Luncheon & Silent Auction

The youth group is packing our bags for a service trip to Reynosa, Mexico this summer to build a school...and we need your help! On February 14 at noon in the church gym, our youth will be hosting the "Serving to Serve" Valentine's Day luncheon and silent auction to raise funds for our international mission trip. Our youth will be serving you lunch, auctioning off services and items, and VOICES will be providing entertainment for this amazing mid-day event. Please RSVP by Tuesday, Feb. 9, by filling out the flyer in the newsletter. Help us serve to serve!

Respond to Haiti

I AM SO EXCITED ABOUT THIS! We all want to help in Haiti in some way, and my Arbonne team is donating complete meal protein shakes in ready to drink containers at our cost. We can help!

How can YOU help? Let me know how many cases you would like to donate.

- \$25 - 1 case (12) Protein Shakes
- \$50 - 2 cases (24) Protein Shakes
- \$75 - 3 cases (36) Protein Shakes
- \$100 - 4 cases (48) Protein shakes

Each shake has 20 grams of protein and vitamins and minerals that do not require refrigeration! Taxes and shipping charges are included.

I hope to hear from you soon!
Stephanie Purifoy
Independent Consultant, Arbonne International
501-773-6955; stephp@sswbell.net

The **First Youth basketball game schedules** can be found on the **Calendar page** and **Youth page** of our church website, www.fumclr.org.



All games are played at Pulaski Heights UMC. Catch a game soon!

Families of First Church

Members in the Hospital

- David Gentry (Baptist)
- Mac McClellan (St. Vincent)
- Phyllis Van Every (Baptist NLR)

Sympathy

Christian sympathies are extended to **Craig Crawford** and family in the recent death of his mother, Marilyn Crawford.

New Members

Please welcome **Michelle Enfinger** and **Eric Hatch** who joined First Church on January 24. Michelle joined by transfer of membership from Cabot UMC and Eric joined by transfer of membership from the Baptist Church. Michelle works for HP Enterprise Services and Eric works for Regions Bank.



"How many Methodists does it take to change a light bulb?"

The answer is: at least two wonderful, caring volunteers from the FUMCLR "Honey-Do Crew"! The Honey-Do Crew of the Member Care Team is always ready and willing to help congregation members with small household chores they are unable to do themselves. In fact, they are looking for business! Chores include: changing ceiling light bulbs, fixing leaky faucets and running toilets, building extras shelves for closets and the crew now has someone to help with basic computer problems.

Micki Meador is a very satisfied customer of the Honey-Do Crew's assistance. They came to her house and replaced some light bulbs on her porch and around her house. Micki said, "It was great fun to have such honorable gentlemen to climb the ladder for me. It is good to have my porch lights back on and working again. This is a wonderful service for little old ladies like me."

To access this handy dandy service all you need to do is call Rev. Mary Jane Cole at the church office at 372-2256, describe the chore and we will dispatch the Honey-Do Crew to your aid.

So how many Methodists does it take...? It really takes all of us as committed people of faith to love and care for one another. Please call the Honey-Do Crew and put these faithful servants to work in your home!

Grace and Peace,
Mary Jane Cole

More News

Guest Speaker, Mr. Mo Amani

You are invited to join the Bowen-Cabe class in room 204 during the Sunday school hour (9:45-10:45) on Feb. 7 and 14 to hear guest speaker, Mr. Mo Amani. Mr Amani, who grew up in Tehran, Iran and now lives in Little Rock, will be sharing his faith journey from Islam to Christianity. He will also speak about his background, understanding the difference between Islam and Christianity and Iran. His main focus, both Sunday's, will be what God has done in his life.

Save the date/mark your calendar for June 28th - July 1st.

There will be Vacation Bible School in the morning and Music camp in the afternoon. Plan to be a part of both, or just one of these exciting activities.

First Youth Catacombs

Are you afraid of the dark? Do you think you can navigate the church and find clues with Roman guards lurking behind every corner? Then dress in camo and face paint, for **Catacombs on January 31 from 5:30-8 p.m.**

First Church named in 5 Scholarships

Did you know that generous donors have established multiple college scholarships over the past twenty years? Yes! Three of these scholarships are located at Hendrix College and managed by the college which selects deserving individuals each year. Those scholarships and this year's recipients at Hendrix are:

- ◆ The Ed & Pat Matthews Endowed Scholarship - Ms. Courtney Wolfskill of Arlington, Texas.
- ◆ The Jeanie Pope Burton Endowed Scholarship - Ms. Anna Peterson of Baton Rouge, LA.
- ◆ The John H. Summers United Methodist Church Endowed Scholarship -Kara Stewart of Benton, AR.

Additionally, there are two more scholarships that are given each year by First Church itself. They are:

- ◆ The Nell Frost Scholarship which is awarded each year to one of our high school seniors who has shown exceptional commitment to the church. This past year that scholarship went to Lindsey Spann at Pulaski Technical College.
- ◆ The Dollars for Scholars Scholarship which is awarded each year to another one of our high school seniors who shows great leadership in the church who attends a UMC college. In 2008, that scholarship went to John Schallhorn at Hendrix College.

Thank you for your commitment to young people in their pursuit of higher education!